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News Release

February 17, 2016

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Kapaia sewage spill cleanup completed; Kūhiō Highway open

KAPAIA – Wastewater officials estimate that up to 1,000 gallons of sewage overflowed from a manhole this morning in Kapaia.

The spill was contained to the immediate area of the manhole, and did not run off to the Hanamā'ulu Stream.

Authorities were notified of the spill at approximately 7:12 a.m. this morning.

The spill was caused by roots clogging the sewer main, which resulted in the flow backing up upstream of the clog and eventually overflowing from the manhole.

The spill was abated by 9 a.m. and the cleanup was completed by 2 p.m., with all affected areas being disinfected with granulated chlorine.

The affected area was on the hillside above Kūhiō Highway in Kapaia, where the sewer line comes down the hill within an easement and joins up with the sewer main on Kūhiō Highway. The only access to this area for service equipment was from the southbound shoulder of the highway.

The work area was along the southbound lane of Kūhiō Highway between Hanamā'ulu and Ma'alo Road.

Traffic was diverted to allow traffic to flow in both directions while the work proceeded. The partial closure was in effect between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. The highway was completely open at 2 p.m.

The response and clean-up was coordinated by the county in collaboration with the state Department of Health.

The county agencies that responded to the scene included the Department of Public Works Wastewater Management Division and Roads Division, who provided traffic controls.